

Application No.: 10/618,307  
Art Unit: 3679

Attorney Docket No. 23166.00  
Confirmation No. 4753

**IN THE CLAIMS**

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions of claims in the application:

Claims 1-6. (*Cancelled*)

1 Claim 7. (*New*) A sleeve in combination with a hydraulic pipe, comprising:

2 a pipe adapted for serving as a conduit for fluid, the pipe having an open end;

3 a one-piece body fabricated from latex, said one-piece body having an open bottom and a closed  
4 top and being removably disposed on the open end of said pipe in order to seal said open end, thereby  
5 preventing leakage of hydraulic fluid from said open end and the ingress of debris into said open end;

6 a ribbed portion disposed around and defining said open bottom; and

7 a reinforced portion defining said closed top, whereby said sleeve is strengthened at said top  
8 and prevented from easily rupturing.